

December 2007

# *FARM FOCUS*



## **Stillwater Farm Service Agency**

334 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus, MT 59019  
Phone: (406) 322-5348  
Fax: (406) 322-4816

## **Stillwater County Committee**

Richard Swartz – Member  
Robert Yates – Member  
Lance Eisenman – Member  
Theo Yanzick – Advisor

## **Stillwater County Personnel & Ext.**

Dane Schneidt, CED -104  
Donna Linger, PT -105  
Michelle Eder, PT -100  
Susan Pederson, TP -106

## **Sweet Grass Farm Service Agency**

US HWY 10 East  
P.O. Box 610  
Big Timber, MT 59011  
Phone: (406) 932-5159  
Fax: (406) 932-5285

## **Sweet Grass County Committee**

Donald Kinsey – Member  
Lynn Sanders – Member  
Kate Binckley – Member

## **Sweet Grass County Personnel & Ext.**

Dane Schneidt, CED – 2  
Marla Moen, PT – 2

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**December 12-15** – Montana Stockgrower's Annual Convention, Billings

**December 25** Office closed  
**January 1** Office closed  
**January 15** Office closed

**January 31** – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2007

**March 17, 2008** – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops

## **Signup Still Underway for Disaster Assistance Programs**

**LCP – Livestock Compensation Program** We are currently taking applications in both Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties for 2006, which is the year we qualified for. Please contact our office if you have not signed up yet, as we are doing all of our sign-ups through appointments. The documentation you need to provide:

- 2006 Tax Assessment Form
- Cattle/Land Lease Agreements
- Calf sales receipts
- Any information that would prove you owned livestock January 1, 2006

**CDP – Crop Disaster Program** Paperwork is being processed and folders are getting ready to begin this program!! The offices will send out appointment cards when they are ready.

## **January 31 Deadline to Request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs**

Wool and mohair producers have until January 31 to apply for either a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2007-crop wool or mohair.

The national loan rate for ungraded wool offered as collateral will secure a

non-recourse loan made at a rate of 40 cents per pound. For graded wool, loans will be based on the statutory rate of \$1.00 per pound. Producers who desire a non-recourse loan for mohair will receive the statutory rate of \$4.20 per pound. Loan rates will be adjusted based on a schedule of quality premiums and discounts applicable to the 2005 marketing year. The repayment amount per pound for mohair and for both graded and ungraded wool will be announced at close of business each Tuesday, and can be found on the Montana FSA website at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

For Montana the loan rates are divided into two regions by county. Producers should pick the correct region for their operation and then check the posted rates at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN2.htm> for region 2 counties and at:  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN3.htm> for region 3 counties.

Instead of obtaining a loan, producers may request LDPs on these commodities. The LDP rates will be the difference between the per pound loan rate and the weekly announced repayment rate. The repayment prices reflect prices being offered in the current market.

## **County Committee Election Results**

Stillwater – Susan Clark  
Sweet Grass – Kevin Halverson  
Thank you to Richard Swartz and Lynn Sanders for your years of work and dedication to the committees. Thank you also for the other nominees who let their names run in the election.

## **Farm Storage Facility Loan**

FSA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Commodities covered under this storage program are rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, peanuts, sunflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, and other oilseeds as determined and announced. Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, or barley harvested as whole grain or other than whole grain are also eligible.

Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

### ***Eligible facilities and equipment include:***

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New oxygen limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New structures that are upright, bunker-type, horizontal, or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grains storage or other than whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling equipment and grain drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage renovated according to FSA regulations without an increase in storage capacity;
- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required; and

- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads, designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

### ***The applicant must:***

- Complete form CCC-185
- Pay a non-refundable application fee of \$45.00 to the FSA office
- Provide copies of contracts, project cost breakdown, copies of site plans or estimates for all proposed work;
- Provide form FSA 440-32
- Provide proof of multi-peril crop insurance
- Provide legal description of parcel (s) of land to be offered as security and legal description of land where facility will be placed;
- File CCC-10

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed.

Loans shall bear interest at the rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Other requirements may apply.

## **Year End Reviews**



Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to assist us.

## **Census of Agriculture Coming Soon**

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or logon to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

## **Annie's Project**

Montana MarketManager will usher Annie's Project into Montana starting in January 2008. Annie's Project will be delivered in six 3-hour sessions at 12 locations around Montana. Each Monday evening session will run from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$100.

### **Class locations:**

Baker – Baker High School  
Bozeman – Burns Telecom Center, MSU  
Culbertson – Roosevelt Memorial Hospital  
Dillon – University of Montana – Western  
Glasgow – Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital  
Great Falls – MSU College of Technology  
Havre – MSU Northern  
Lewistown – Central Montana Education Center  
Miles City – Miles City Community College  
**Rapelje – Rapelje High School**  
Scobey – Scobey High School  
Shelby – Marias Medical Center  
Sidney – ARS Center

Contact the Grain Growers at 406/761-4596 for registration information

## **Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers**

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

### **Direct Deposits**

Almost all FSA payments are made electronically using direct deposit. This cuts down on missing and late payments. Another benefit is that direct deposit to your account can be made within 48 hours! To keep things running smoothly, it's critical to update the county office staff on any changes you might have in your financial institution. If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, please contact the office right away so we can update our files.

**Stillwater County FSA Office**

334 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Columbus, MT 59019

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR FSA STAFF,



*Dane, Donna, Marla, Michelle and Susan.*

**THE COUNTY OFFICE NEWSLETTER IS AN  
OFFICIAL AGENCY RECORD AND MAY BE USED  
TO ESTABLISH LEGAL NOTICE OF PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS.**

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